

one sees the deep gorge thro which the Potomac finds its way. A little farther up the stream is an island covered with trees whose foliage furnishes a cool retreat for city excursionists during the hot season of the year. On the side of one of these mountains and on the top of the other are two buildings, a winding road leading to each of them. These we are told are hotels where summer boarders spend the season. It will be remembered that during the late war this point was the key to the North and South. It changed hands twenty-seven times from 1861 to 1864. Altogether our point of observation presented a magnificent scenery. The best evidence in the world that we are entirely lacking in poetic genius is the fact that no poetry is forth coming. If such historic associations combined with beauty and grandeur of scenery do not arouse one's poetic faculties, then he should never undertake to write poetry.

We started out to write Conference Notes. Will do that next week.

I have been driven many times to my knees by the overwhelming conviction that I had nowhere else to go. My own wisdom and that of all about me seemed insufficient for that day.—*Abraham Lincoln.*

DEER PARK

On the Crest of the Alleghenies.

To those contemplating a trip to the mountains in search of health or pleasure Deer Park, on the crest of the Allegheny Mountains, 3,000 feet above the sea level, offers such varied attraction as a delightful atmosphere during day and night, pure water, smooth, winding roads through the mountains and valleys, Cricket grounds, Ball grounds, Golf links, Tennis courts, and the picturesque scenery in the Allegheny range. The hotel is equipped with all adjuncts conducive to the entertainment, pleasure and comfort of guests.

There are also a number of furnished cottages with facilities for housekeeping.

The houses and grounds are supplied with absolutely pure water, piped from the celebrated "Boiling Springs," and are lighted with electricity. Deer Park is on the main line of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, and has the advantage of its splendid Vestibuled Limited Express trains between the east and west. Season excursion tickets, good for return passage until October 31, will be placed on sale at greatly reduced rates at all principal ticket offices throughout the country.

The season at Deer Park commences June 21, 1897.

For full information as to rates, rooms, etc., address D. C. Jones, Manager, Camden Station, Baltimore, Md.

Contributions.

THE BRETHREN CHURCH IN CALIFORNIA.

MARTIN SHIVELY.

In a former paper I tried to explain something of the relative size of the state of California. While this largeness gives abundant room for growth, it is yet in an unfortunate condition. The population except in a few localities is quite sparse, when compared with that of the eastern states. And then, too, our people are scattered almost from the extreme north to the south, and being but few in number to begin with, they are often too far apart to keep up an organization.

Allowing the church at Lathrop to be the point of beginning, the Brethren church of California is located and conditioned as follows: The Lathrop church was organized in 1862 by the pioneer Brethren preacher of the state, Elder Geo. Wolf. It has had as many as seventy-five members enrolled, but has now only forty-five, and these quite scattered. It owns no church property, but keeps three appointments supplied with preaching. 1. Lathrop proper, where we practically control a union church, being the only people who worship there. 2. East Union, three miles east of Lathrop, and 3. Ripon, thirteen miles south-east. The Turlock church is thirty-five miles south-east from Lathrop; was organized in 1891, by Elder Jonathan Myers and has thirty-one members thoroughly alive in body and spirit. This church has no house of worship, but meets weekly in a very nice hall, the use of which is donated to us by our very generous friend, Thos. Gaddis. The Vernalis church, which considers itself a part of the one at Lathrop, but is in reality a separate institution, and will be so organized in the near future, is eighteen miles south-west from Lathrop and has a membership of twenty-seven souls. Here the Brethren have erected a neat but small house of worship which will soon be dedicated to the exclusive service of God. The Altamont church is located twenty miles south-west from Lathrop on the summit of the Coast Range mountains. Here we have a small but neat house of worship, free from any incumbrances. This church was organized in 1882 by Brethren Beer and Doty, and at one time had a membership of forty-two, which is now reduced to only four and has no regular preaching. The cause will be explained later on. The Chapparral congregation was first organized in 1880 and is thirty-five miles north-east from Lathrop. Its membership, earlier in its history, reached forty-eight which dwindled down to less than a dozen

and the organization was abandoned. A few months ago, however, it was reorganized by Brethren Wolf and Garman and has now about twenty members with a resident preacher, Brother Jacob Shank, in charge. Here also, a mission house is used. The Rosena congregation is more than 500 miles south from Lathrop, in the Los Angeles valley. It was organized in 1892 by Brethren Holsinger, Nicholson and Eshelman and has twelve members enrolled. The aged and splendid veteran of the cross, Brother Nicholson, is in charge. Here also we own no house of worship. There is perhaps a scattered membership of thirty souls throughout the Los Angeles valley, with only a few here and there. These have no services and are not connected with the Rosena church. In the vicinity of San Jose, seventy miles south-west from Lathrop, there are twelve members in an unorganized state and without any preaching, except such as we are able to give them at long intervals. We have four members in San Francisco and Oakland, ninety-five miles from Lathrop, and two at Dos Palos, 100 miles south. Thus it will be seen that our membership in California does not exceed 200, and scarcely more than half of the number is found in our organized churches. Of the scattered ones, very few have opportunity to hear any preaching by our Brethren, save as they attend our annual camp-meeting. Two houses of worship owned by the Brethren, one at Altamont, where no preaching is had, the other at Vernalis, where there has been no regular appointments since Brother Garman's return east, a few months ago.

No doubt you have observed in reading thus far that there has been a considerable shrinkage in our members at several places. This is not because our people have grown so bad that they were expelled, but because that in California the population is of a very shifting character. Brother Holsinger has put it about right when he said that the church in California is on wheels. Comparatively few people have owned their houses, so that the tie which bound them to any community has been a very slight one. Thus each new report of a better place in the state has caused an exodus to the more desirable locality. This is always a characteristic of a newly settled country. However, we think matters are changing for the better in this direction, and as our population grows more dense and conditions become more settled, this evil will pass away. If we were only able to follow these scattering people, I know great good could be done, for each one, in a sense, becomes a missionary to his neighbors, but alas! the laborers are few. The field is opening more